

Worn, Dangerous Tires are Menace to Autoists and Pedestrians Alike



STAR LEARNS HOW . . . Attractive Virginia Dale, Paramount's star who has a big following of fans, recently discovered there was a lot to know about caring for and operating a car, when she assembled a bunch of automobile manufacturers instruction books and looked them over. Here she is reading a car owner's guide. She concluded that if all motorists would read such guides more carefully they would be less subject to car troubles.

Approach of Slippery Road Season Signals Safety Inspection Now

The daily succession of horror headlines, screaming danger and destruction by war abroad is apt to make us lose sight of "everyday dangers much nearer home, in the opinion of Harry O. Bock, divisional sales manager, U. S. Tire Dealers' Corporation. "Take winter driving, for instance," Mr. Bock pointed out in an interview here today: "Thousands of motorists are menaced yearly through lack of understanding when a tire ceases to be safe. Most people think they are perfectly safe just as long as there is some rubber left on the tread. They forget the tread design was molded on for a far more important reason than mere appearance; that it provides the traction which enables the tire to grip the road.

"Right now we are approaching the slippery road season—the skidding season! Years ago it was the custom to have horses 'sharp shod' in winter to keep them from slipping and enable them to start and stop without danger to themselves or the vehicle. Today, the safety-minded motorist sees that his car is 'sharp shod' in winter so that he has perfect control at all times. My advice to car owners is to inspect all four tires at once, paying particular attention to the tread. Remember that safety far outweighs the imaginary savings to be had from wearing the last long miles out of tires worn slick and smooth.

License Plates Are Big Business in California

SACRAMENTO (U.P.)—The license plates on your car cost only 8½ cents, just about the cheapest price for any state in the union. But the story behind the tremendous job of keeping tabs on several million sets of plates shows some interesting traits of human nature. The most encouraging bit of news is a good index of improved business conditions based on a sizable increase in the number of pleasure car registrations. When the books were added up on Aug. 31, 1939, there were 2,332,846 such cars licensed, but the total on the same date this year was 2,455,977, an increase of about 123,000. In fact, the 1940 total for eight

months was 33,000 more than the entire 1939 total of 2,422,322. Several Repeat Orders Director of Motor Vehicles James Carter pointed out that many persons felt this was a good time to buy a new car, in the face of probable increased prices because of higher prices for materials and labor due to national defense projects. Many feared higher taxes on automobiles, with the result the new car sales boomed. Many people have good jobs in national defense industries, particularly in the Southern California aircraft factories. Bigger payrolls means more money for cars, which turned out to be a

headache for Carter and Howard Deems, his registrar. When license plates were ordered for 1940, a five percent extra number was received for unforeseen increases. The plates went out so fast another shipment was ordered, than a second order, and there is no assurance the stock on hand will last out the year. The plates for 1941 have been manufactured and delivered to the state and officials are hoping they ordered enough. Sample Plates \$1 Each That little quirk of human nature which prompts motorists to want low license numbers won't get far when the 1941 renewals come along. The first step was last year when the preferential system was abolished and only five and six digit numbers were made. Next year virtually all numbers will be six digits, thus

eliminating the possibility of urge to get low numbers, at great cost to the state and confusion generally. While on the subject of license plates, California received national publicity when the Saturday Evening Post carried a cover design of all the 1941 plates in the nation and chided California for charging \$1 for the sample plate. As a matter of fact, the \$1 fee was imposed several years ago to discourage a flood of requests, chiefly from automobile clubs and insurance companies. All the sample plates carry a string of zeros in place of numbers. To get around the evil, California now sends two sets of free plates to each state capital, where they may be copied or inspected by the public. Everyone must pay \$1 and hardly a dozen such purchases are made a year.

Many Wrecks In Rain and Fog

Millions will go forth this season to enjoy Winter motoring, which is almost as heavy as that of Summer, as shown by gasoline sales records. But, says a traffic official, it is well to remember that: "A good driver, a good car and good weather constitute an ideal combination for safety. But, right now, good weather quickly turns to poor weather, and good cars often become poor cars, if not inspected in advance of the season. "Traffic records show that last year there were 93,510 fatal and non-fatal accidents in the rain, 12,450 in the fog, and 18,940 in the snow. "We know that many of these serious occurrences would have been averted, despite poor weather, if the cars had been in perfect condition. Therefore, anything that Mobilgas dealers can do on car inspection, and in arousing motorists to its necessity, is a move in the right direction."

Many Stranded

Many thousand motorists will be stranded this season on the road or in their garages or at the homes of friends. This statement, made by Glenn Maupin, owner of the Mobilgas service station at Carson and El Prado, is based on statistical information.

"History repeats itself," he says, "and this history shows that countless thousands will be delayed and inconvenienced during this winter because batteries go dead, fan belts wear out and break, tires fail, bearings burn out, and other distressing things happen. These things don't usually happen to the man who makes it a regular business to have his car thoroughly checked and correctly lubricated before the season changes. That's why the Winter-proof check-up, now included in our dollar special, is so practical and so popular. Wise motorists, the many thousands who don't get stranded, take advantage of this opportunity."

JAPAN TAKES CENSUS WASHINGTON—A Japanese embassy spokesman said this week that his nation was taking a regular 10-year census of its citizens, including those in the United States and elsewhere abroad.

MORGANTOWN, W. Va.—Truck gardeners in the Cheat Neck section don't fool with the little ones. Donald Leo Shay, 15-year-old high school student, proudly displayed a giant radish over 12 inches long and over five pounds in weight.

There's Trouble Ahead If You Haven't New Driver's License!

SACRAMENTO (U.P.)—Thousands of California motorists are in a mad scramble to obtain drivers' licenses following wholesale arrests in some parts of the state of drivers still using their cancelled 1927-28 "good until revoked" licenses.

The department of motor vehicles announced that a thriving business is being done by branch offices in populous centers, license division officials at highway patrol and renewal offices in small communities.

Within 24 hours, highway patrolmen in one city alone—North Sacramento—stopped 5,000 cars and cited 34 holders of revoked licenses. The drive also netted 92 drivers whose regular licenses had expired, and they were warned to obtain renewals.

Nearly 50,000 applications for new licenses have been filed since Oct. 1, announced director James M. Carter who approved an order for highway patrolmen to round up owners of cancelled cards. All persons still using 1927-28 licenses are violating the law, Carter said, but no one appearing voluntarily for new licenses will be prosecuted.

The ancient Roman chariots were built with a clearance of 4 feet, 8½ inches between wheels.

Oil Cools Motor

"Lots of car owners don't know, but should know," says Ben Airey, operator of the Mobilgas station at 1913 Highway 101 in Lomita, "that the fan, radiator and water jackets are not the only things to cool motors. The motor oil, besides lubricating, is also depended on for cooling. It cuts down the intense heat of today's high speed motors. Otherwise, they'd burn up. This oil must circulate at the rate of 26 quarts per minute, at 30 to 45 pounds pressure, to do the right cooling job.

"If the motor is clogged up, if the oil is dirty, if it isn't full-bodied and correct weight, it will neither circulate nor cool nor lubricate properly. The only way you're taking a chance, I say, look at your oil regularly and drain it at least every 1,000 miles to play safe. And be sure to inspect it before Winter starts. This is only one of many reasons for the 'Special' Winter-proof inspections now offered by Mobilgas dealers at a bargain rate."

The Hoosac tunnel in Massachusetts was the first great railway tunnel built in the United States. Twenty-five years were required in its construction.

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- BATTERY:** Test with hydrometer. Inspect Cables. Clean terminals. Add distilled water if necessary.
- COOLING SYSTEM:** Inspect for scale and leaks. Inspect hose and clamps.
- FAN BELTS:** Inspect for wear and defects.
- CRANKCASE OIL:** Inspect level and condition of oil.
- OIL FILTER:** Inspect for need of replacement.
- AIR CLEANER:** Inspect for need of service.
- SPARK PLUGS:** Inspect. Clean, test and respace electrodes.
- WINDSHIELD WIPER UNIT:** Inspect wiper blade and arm.
- LIGHTS:** Inspect for any burned out lamps.
- TRANSMISSION AND DIFFERENTIAL:** Inspect level and condition of lubricant.
- CHASSIS AND SPRINGS:** Inspect for need of lubrication.
- TIRES AND VALVES:** Inspect and remove old foreign material.
- FRONT WHEEL BEARINGS:** Inspect condition of lubricant.
- Vacuum or clean interior—empty ash trays.**
- Clean oil glass.**
- Polish chromium trim—clean dash panel.**
- Solvent clean steering wheel.**
- Dust body of car with a clean dust cloth.**

(All for \$1.00—except for additional products or services you order.)

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